What is claimed is:

1. A method of detecting a disorder involving defective P-selectin in a patient comprising:

providing a quantity of P-selectin glycoprotein ligand, or a P-selectin binding portion thereof, the P-selectin glycoprotein ligand comprising a fucosylated sialylated glycoprotein containing sialyl Lewis^x antigen and the glycoprotein ligand having an apparent relative molecular weight of about 120,000 D as assessed by SDS-PAGE under reducing conditions and having binding specific for P-selectin; and

testing the binding of the P-selectin glycoprotein ligand, or the P-selectin binding portion thereof, to activated platelets or activated endothelial cells derived from the patient.

2. A method of detecting a disorder involving defective binding of P-selectin glycoprotein ligand in a patient, comprising:

providing an antibody to a protein component or to a carbohydrateprotein component of P-selectin glycoprotein ligand, the glycoprotein ligand comprising a fucosylated sialylated glycoprotein containing sialyl Lewis* antigen and the glycoprotein ligand having an apparent relative molecular weight of about 120,000 D as assessed by SDS-PAGE under reducing conditions and wherein the antibody has binding specific for P-selectin glycoprotein ligand and wherein the antibody inhibits binding of P-selectin glycoprotein ligand to P-selectin; and

testing the binding of the antibody to leukocytes obtained from the patient.